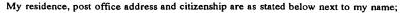
(Page 1)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:





I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled DATA PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD, AND STORAGE MEDIUM THEREFOR X was filed on November 15, 1999 as United States Application is attached hereto the specification of which 09/440,467 No. or PCT International Application No. and was amended on _ (if applicable). I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56. I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d) or §365(b), of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT international application which designates at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed: (Yes/No) Filed (Day/Mo./Yr.) Country JAPAN Priority Claimed 20 November 1998 YES **JAPAN** 10-330838 20 November 1998 YES 10-330839 20 November 1998 JAPAN YES JAPAN 10-337259. 27 November 1998 YES I hereby appoint the practitioners associated with the firm and customer Number provided below to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and direct that all correspondence be addressed to the address associated with that Customer Number: FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO Customer Number: 05514 I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon. JUN YOSHIDA Full Name of Sole or First Inventor 24 December 1999 **JAPAN** Citizen/Subject of Residence 19-20-102, Okubo 1-chome, Konan-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan Post Office Address c/o Canon Kabushiki Kaisha 30-2, Shimomaruko 3-chome, Ohta-ku, Japan KEIICHI IWAMURA Full Name of Second Joint Inventor, if any _ Second Inventor's signature Natical Curasura **JAPAN** Citizen/Subject of 29-2-405, Futaba-cho 4-chome, Minami-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan Post Office Address <u>c/o Canon</u> Kabushiki Kaisha

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